

This nomination is for the following award: **Outstanding Paraprofessional Award**

First Name **Jennifer**

Last Name **Salas**

Library Affiliation (if applicable) **Martin County Library System**

Title (if applicable) **Library Director**

Street Address **2351 SE Monterey Road**

City, State, ZIP **Stuart, FL 34996**

Telephone Number **772-221-1410**

E-mail Address jsalas@martin.fl.us

Are you nominating an individual or a group/organization for this award? **Individual**

First Name **Stephanie**

Last Name **Piccino**

Library Affiliation (if applicable) **Martin County Library System- Peter & Julie Cummings Library branch**

Title (if applicable) **Library Specialist**

Street Address **2551 SW Matheson Avenue**

City, State, ZIP **Palm City, FL 34990**

Telephone Number **772-288-2551**

E-mail Address spiccino@martin.fl.us

Is the nominator a member of FLA? **Yes**

Will you be submitting any supporting documentation? **Yes**

If you would like us to review web pages in consideration of this application (including videos or other supporting materials that are stored online), please enter the Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) below.

<https://youtu.be/ENcmklbqedo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JM8V1as4aL8&t=17s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1WWW5my4io>

Essay **“Lighting is everything, always. Photography comes from the Greek photos = light and graphe = drawing. Photography is drawing with light.”** Library Specialist Stephanie Piccino addresses the snAPPshots! Smart Phone class. There are 18 adults in the class meant for 8, due to a registration requirement error. No worries—she moves through the lesson plan and edits on the fly to cover as much as can be done with the crowded situation. It’s just another day at the Peter & Julie Cummings Library in Palm City where she has been a Library Specialist since December 2012. Stephanie started as a part-time homework helper who brought teaching skills and a graphics art and TV production background to the first Martin County Library idea lab. She began helping staff and patrons navigate the idea lab’s Adobe Creative Suite programs and photographic equipment. She joined the full-time staff and has worked closely with the digital literacy librarian to develop programs for teaching technology including a 3 level iPhone class which is now taught in several other locations, smartphone photography and photo storage solutions. Her daily interaction with patrons needing assistance gave

her the insights for tailoring the class content to the typical Martin County patron's level of experience. She created tutorials to enable other staff to create professional videos using the idea lab resources to promote library programs, staff development, secure funding and record events documenting outcomes for grant reports. Drawing on her personal interest in game mechanics, online coursework and the library's long range service goals, Stephanie conceived a gamification project for encouraging staff development. The first year (2015-16) program consisted of 4 levels of achievement—bronze, silver, and gold, with a platinum top level for either completing all 12 badges or the most within the one year time period. Actual badges and pin banners were awarded monthly. The current year's (2016-17) offerings expanded to include more opportunities for all staff to encourage participation and engagement, increase professional development with a focus on technology skills, conference attendance and information sharing and collaboration within the system and the community. So far, over one hundred badges have been awarded. Creating graphics for badges is one of Stephanie's passions. She creates them not only for staff development—she designed Pokemon Go gym badges for each of the 6 library locations to award players, idea lab mascots for the staff and volunteers and to support youth programs like Dr. Who, Sherlock, Star Wars and Hello Kitty fandom events. She is equally at home behind the camera recording a robotics competition, a Smithsonian-sponsored local history exhibit or in front of a crowd discussing manga, "The Myth of Star Wars," or Google Photos. Badges are also the basis for Girl Scout achievements. Stephanie recognized scouting as a ready-made approach to bringing the public into the library to experience our idea lab and engage girls in STEM activities. She researched the badge requirements for technology and drafted lesson plans that would enable Brownies (2-3 gr.), Juniors (4-5 gr.) and Cadettes (6-8 gr.) to complete computer, digital photography or movie making badges in a series of classes at the library. Since the first workshop held during the summer of 2013, she has introduced the basics of photography, storytelling/scriptwriting, graphic design and computer use and safety to many local scouts. She wrote about the first year in an article published in Florida Libraries, Fall 2014, V. 57, N.2, pp. 23-26, "Scouting for Tech: My Year with the Girl Scouts at the Library." She has presented an updated poster session version at the New England Library Association Annual Meeting in October, 2016. She has been accepted to present it at the poster sessions for this year's FLA annual meeting and the Innovation Lab. The coursework for the Brownie Computer Expert badge, the Junior Scout Digital Photographer badge and the Cadette Movie Maker and Screenwriter badges are now being shared with other MCLS staff to offer at their locations now that they have idea labs in their branches. Stephanie has been part of the national library community since becoming a LITA blog writer in 2015. She has written on diverse topics including gamification, teaching technology, visual literacy, user experience and random thoughts on being a paraprofessional in a public library setting for this ALA division. She has been enrolled in the San Jose State University MLIS program and is currently studying at Florida State. She is exposing herself to the variety of professional options and the myriad directions in which a young library specialist may go. Stephanie has helped make the Peter & Julie Cummings Library a benchmark for our system's idea labs/technology skills teaching, staff development and patron support. The big blackboard in the idea lab features the ever-changing colorful, informative chalk drawings she creates each month to highlight a resource, program or skill. She has left her mark on dozens of girls who have found creative, powerful messaging tools while earning achievement badges. At one of the Dr. Who teen programs she facilitated, she overheard a teen say, "I don't have any friends at school, but I found friends here." Stephanie states this is a highlight of her career. Countless library patrons now communicate with ease on their devices, share

photos, Skype or download e-books and navigate online and in the library collection since encountering Stephanie. Library staff will proudly show you their badges that quantify the big and the small efforts that make working in the library rewarding. What is next for this dedicated library paraprofessional who wears her geek girl attributes as a badge of honor? Whatever it is, you can be sure she'll write about it, blog it or meet you at FLA to share it.

Summary **Stephanie Piccino is a full-time library specialist who goes beyond the basics of providing excellent customer service to patrons and staff by applying her unique style and interests to developing programs and projects that benefit the Martin County Library System, our community and the libraries across the state and the county. Her background in graphic design and TV production has guided her to producing technology classes for seniors to Brownie scouts. She created a gamification scheme to encourage staff development and has shared these and more through participation at conferences and on the LITA blogs and Florida Libraries.**